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1	HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18
2	INTRODUCED BY W. GALT, D. BARTEL, D. BEDEY, S. BERGLEE, M. BLASDEL, K. BOGNER, B. BROWN
3	E. BUTTREY, D. DUNN, J. FULLER, F. GARNER, B. HAMLETT, G. HERTZ, S. HINEBAUCH, L. JONES,
4	J. KASSMIER, C. KNUDSEN, R. KNUDSEN, D. LENZ, D. MORTENSEN, A. REDFIELD, M. REGIER,
5	S. SALES, W. SALES, R. SHAW, D. SKEES, B. TSCHIDA, K. WHITE
6	
7	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
8	MONTANA URGING THE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO ENHANCE ITS REGULATIONS FOR ELF
9	MANAGEMENT AND SHOULDER SEASONS.
10	
11	WHEREAS, in 2018, 64.5% of the elk management units with an established population objective were
12	over objective; and
13	WHEREAS, hunters are the best and most cost-effective management tool to maintain elk populations
14	at objective; and
15	WHEREAS, many Montana families rely on hunting opportunities for subsistence; and
16	WHEREAS, food banks in Montana rely on donations of game meat from hunters who are able to share
17	their harvest; and
18	WHEREAS, increasing hunter opportunities on private lands in management units where populations are
19	over objective is important for reducing game damage on private property, moving elk toward population
20	objectives, building and improving relationships between landowners and hunters, and helping to disperse ell
21	onto public lands; and
22	WHEREAS, there are changes the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission could make to ell
23	management and shoulder season regulations to enhance these outcomes.
24	
25	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
26	STATE OF MONTANA:
27	That the 66th Legislature of the State of Montana urges the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission to
28	enhance elk management and shoulder season regulations by:

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objective on August 15 and closing them no earlier than the second Sunday in February;

(1) opening performance-based shoulder seasons in hunting districts where elk populations are above

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1	(2) INCLUDING PUBLIC LANDS ADJACENT TO PRIVATE LANDS ENROLLED IN A SHOULDER SEASON;
2	(3) PUBLISHING A LIST OF LANDOWNERS PARTICIPATING IN A SHOULDER SEASON;
3	$\frac{(2)(3)(4)}{(2)(4)}$ allowing general elk licenses to be used to harvest antlerless elk during shoulder seasons and
4	providing liberal numbers of antlerless elk B tags and opportunities to acquire those tags in hunting districts that
5	are over objective;
6	(3)(4)(5) allowing hunters to purchase multiple antlerless elk B tags, subject to any statutory limit, to
7	maximize the number of hunters that may harvest multiple elk during a shoulder season;
8	(4)(5) allowing two or more persons hunting in the field together during a shoulder season to collectively
9	harvest as many antlerless elk as they collectively have valid licenses for;
10	(5) (6) updating the 2005 elk management plan to incorporate contemporary elk management data, tools,
11	and regulations;
12	(6)(7) completing the evaluation of performance-based elk shoulder seasons and making necessary
13	adaptive changes to facilitate managing elk populations at objective;
14	$\frac{7}{8}$ simplifying regulations and making them consistent across hunting districts as much as possible,
15	including elk shoulder season dates; and
16	(8)(9) working with landowners to support access to elk during hunting seasons and developing tools
17	in response to landowner needs.
18	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to each member
19	of the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission and the director of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.
20	- END -

